Vote No. 532

October 27, 1995, 3:04 p.m. Page S-16012 Temp. Record

BALANCED BUDGET RECONCILIATION/\$51 Billion More Spending

SUBJECT: Balanced Budget Reconciliation Act of 1995 . . . S. 1357. Domenici motion to table the Dodd motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions.

ACTION: MOTION TO TABLE AGREED TO, 50-49

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 1357, the Balanced Budget Reconciliation Act of 1995, will result in a balanced budget in seven years, as scored by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). The bill will also provide a \$245 billion middle-class tax cut, \$141.4 billion of which will be to provide a \$500 per child tax credit.

The Dodd motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Finance would instruct the Committee to report the bill back within 3 session days with changes to increase tax collections by \$51 billion by reducing revenue reductions "for upper income taxpayers" and to spend the money: by restoring the current-law Medicaid eligibility entitlement for pregnant women and children; by including coverage of prenatal care and delivery services for pregnant women and Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) services for children; by striking the 20-percent reduction over 7 years in the Social Services Block Grant Program; and bystriking the 10 percent cap on the annual increase in administrative costs related to the IV-E Foster Care Program.

The amendment was offered after all debate time had expired. However, by unanimous consent, 1 minute of debate was permitted on the amendment. Following debate, Senator Domenici moved to table the amendment. Generally, those favoring the motion to table opposed the amendment; those opposing the motion to table favored the amendment.

Those favoring the motion to table contended:

Our colleagues seem unable to accept the fact that Medicaid and Medicare spending are growing at unsustainable rates. The reforms in this bill must be made, and have no relation to the middle-class tax relief that will also be provided.

Those opposing the motion to table contended:

(See other side)

YEAS (50)			NAYS (49)			NOT VOTING (0)	
Republicans Democrats (50 or 94%) (0 or 0%)		Republicans (3 or 6%)	Democrats (46 or 100%)		Republicans	Democrats (0)	
					(0)		
Abraham Ashcroft Bennett Bond Brown Burns Campbell Chafee Coats Cochran Coverdell Craig D'Amato DeWine Dole Domenici Faircloth Frist Gramm Grams Grassley Gregg Hatch Hatfield Helms	Hutchison Inhofe Jeffords Kassebaum Kempthorne Kyl Lott Lugar Mack McCain McConnell Murkowski Nickles Pressler Roth Santorum Shelby Simpson Smith Specter Stevens Thomas Thompson Thurmond Warner		Cohen Gorton Snowe	Akaka Baucus Biden Bingaman Boxer Bradley Breaux Bryan Bumpers Byrd Conrad Daschle Dodd Dorgan Exon Feingold Feinstein Ford Glenn Graham Harkin Heflin Hollings	Inouye Johnston Kennedy Kerrey Kerry Kohl Lautenberg Leahy Levin Lieberman Mikulski Moseley-Braun Moynihan Murray Nunn Pell Pryor Reid Robb Rockefeller Sarbanes Simon Wellstone	EXPLANAT 1—Official I 2—Necessar 3—Illness 4—Other SYMBOLS: AY—Annou AN—Annou PY—Paired PN—Paired	nced Yea nced Nay Yea

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We do not want to accuse Republicans of not caring about children, but this bill certainly makes one wonder if they have forgotten the costs that are involved in providing care. This bill will cut Medicaid health care benefits for pregnant women and children, it will deny Social Service Block Grant funding that is used to pay the day care costs for poor women's children, and it will not allow the administrative costs of the foster care program grow by more than 10 percent each year. This amendment would undo all three of these if not heartless, at least unthinking, cuts. The largest part of this amendment would be to preserve Medicaid exactly as it is currently structured to provide exactly the same benefits as are now provided to pregnant women and children. Medicaid would still be an individual entitlement, instead of a benefit given through a block grant. This amendment would take care of the needy instead of giving tax breaks to the wealthy. We are pleased to vote in its favor.